

gun transfers. There is a way to do it that will actually make a big difference in people's lives in this country, and it may actually get through the House.

What we are proposing, what we are seeing proposed right now, is never going to pass the House. Consequently, we will have done something in the Senate with no long-term consequences and actually making a difference for the American people.

Mr. President, I thank the Presiding Officer for the time. I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET THATCHER

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher who passed away Monday.

In the 1970s, Britain was mired in debt and even had to go to the IMF for a bailout. Britain was known then as "The Sick Man of Europe"—how we think of Greece today.

Governments of both political parties had tried to stimulate the economy through Keynesian spending policies and government intervention into the economy was widespread.

Britain faced massive strikes in the winter of 1978-1979, known as the Winter of Discontent. There was talk that Britain had become ungovernable.

Then Margaret Thatcher came on the scene. Her policies of fiscal responsibility and promotion of "free enterprise" completely reversed Britain's economic decline. Her foreign policy achievements were no less impressive. This was the era of détente.

Most people accepted that the Soviet Union was strong and successful and was here to stay so we had to learn to live with it. It was fashionable for political leaders to talk as though the Soviet system was just different, but no better or worse than our own.

Margaret Thatcher had no hesitation in pointing out the truth that the Soviet Union and its satellites held their citizens in bondage and she encouraged dissidents who sought freedom. In fact, it was a speech in 1976 when she was still just leader of the opposition in which she warned about the Soviet military buildup that caused a Soviet army newspaper to coin her nickname the "Iron Lady."

Together with President Reagan, she sought every opportunity to undermine the Soviet system until it collapsed. If this doesn't sound like a bold position

today, it is only because Reagan and Thatcher were proven so profoundly right that everyone now claims to have always agreed.

I should also note that there is a temptation for many people remembering Mrs. Thatcher's legacy to note that she was the first female prime minister of the United Kingdom. While this is a significant historical fact, to mention it as though it was one of her most important accomplishments comes off as patronizing.

Margaret Thatcher rejected the identity politics that is so popular today. She said:

I've always believed that what matters in politics, as in the rest of life, isn't who you are or where you come from, but what you believe and what you want to do with your life. What matters are your convictions.

Because of her convictions and because she acted on those convictions, she restored Britain's economy, national spirit, and international reputation. Millions of people around the world now live in peace and freedom thanks in large part to her efforts. As a result, Margaret Thatcher is unquestionably one of the most significant leaders of the 20th century.

Mrs. Thatcher's legacy shouldn't simply be relegated to history though. We have a lot to learn from her today. As the President submits his overdue budget this week, I would ask my colleagues to ponder this quote by Margaret Thatcher:

If spending money like water was the answer to our country's problems, we would have no problems now. If ever a nation has spent, spent, spent and spent again, ours has. Today that dream is over. All of that money has got us nowhere but it still has to come from somewhere.

Those who urge us to relax the squeeze, to spend yet more money indiscriminately in the belief that it will help the unemployed and the small businessman, are not being kind—or compassionate—or caring. They are not the friends of the unemployed or the small business. They are asking us to do again the very thing that caused the problems in the first place.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, are we in a period of morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is on the motion to proceed at this point.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. I thought so. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

INAUGURATION OF JOE BERTOLINO

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont is a special place. In a State that abounds in natural beauty, the Kingdom, as many Vermonters affectionately call the State's northeast corner, is heralded for its rural splendor. While the

rural character and unspoiled landscape is what defines the Kingdom to many, it is also home to an academic institution that has educated Vermonters for more than 100 years.

Since its founding in 1911, Lyndon State College has served as an economic engine for the region, educating students in a diverse range of academic pursuits. Lyndon has distinguished itself by developing academic programs that mirror the emerging economic needs of the community, such as its first-of-its-kind Mountain Recreation Management program. At the same time, Lyndon remains committed to a liberal arts education and educating students to be well-rounded professionals.

On Friday, April 19, Lyndon State will inaugurate its fifteenth president, Joe Bertolino. Joe comes to Vermont from Hunter College in New York, where he served as vice president for enrollment management and academic affairs. Joe's passion for working with students is evident in his easygoing manner and in how he has engaged students since arriving on campus last summer. At a college of only 1,400 students, Joe's personal touch sets the clear tone that under his leadership Lyndon will be a student-centered institution. Joe has undertaken a number of creative initiatives to build community spirit among Lyndon students and alumni, including an informal policy called "Go Green, Go Gold," that encourages the Lyndon State community to wear the school colors on Wednesdays.

Beyond this personal approach, Joe has laid out an ambitious plan for the college's future. I have had the opportunity to meet Joe during a recent visit to Washington and am encouraged to welcome his energy and creative thinking to Vermont. Lyndon State College is a vital part of Vermont's higher education community, and I wish Joe the best as he is officially inaugurated as the college's next president.

I request unanimous consent that an article from Lyndon State about President Bertolino be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

LOVING LYNDON

(By Leon Thompson)

[From the Lyndon State College Twin Tower Topics]

To the director of YMCA Camp Ockanickon, Joe Bertolino—an accordion-playing member of his high school debate team in New Jersey—didn't seem so suited for counseling other geeks. Not at first.

"Do you hike?" the director asked. "No," Joe said. "Swim?" "No." "Boat?" "No." "Arts and crafts?" "Maybe."

The director wondered, "Is there anything you do?" "I get along with people," Joe said. "That's when my life began," Dr. Joseph Bertolino said this fall, a week after delivering Lyndon State College's State of the College Address, as the fifteenth president. "To me, the meaning of life is relationships, and leadership is all about relationships."

Joe, 49, officially succeeded Interim President Steve Gold on July 1; LSC offered Joe the position in February. For months, Joe traveled between Queens College, in New York City, where he was vice president for enrollment management and student affairs, and LSC, as part of his transition. Joe began his LSC tenure with a 100-day listening tour that involved the College and Northeast Kingdom communities. He has represented LSC twice in the nation's capital, and during his October 4 State of the College Address—preceded by a short, Chaplin-esque silent film about him—he rode into Academic & Student Activity Center, room 100 on his bike, donning a suit, and conveyed a clear message to 200 students, faculty, and staff.

"At Lyndon State College, students come first." Joe called the state of the college "excellent." Enrollment is up, the budget is balanced—with a surplus—and LSC has five new faculty and 15 new staff members and administrators this year.

"Every student has said to me, without fail, 'Joe, I love it here,'" he told his audience. Joe aims to bolster internal and external communications at LSC. His lengthy to-do list contains a new public relations campaign, with a focus on social media, and he wants to erase the off-campus community's perception of LSC as "Harvard on the hill" by continuing to build strong partnerships in the Northeast Kingdom.

He said LSC is a key stakeholder in Jay Peak Resort's plans to invest \$500 million in the region over the next decade—a plan that could mean more internships for LSC students and jobs for graduates.

"Lyndon State College is the college of the Northeast Kingdom," Joe said. Joe has also started an electronic suggestion box—"Joe Wants to Know"—where anyone can post anonymous concerns and comments. During his one-hour speech, Joe posed challenges to alumni: \$1 million for an all-weather athletic field, and \$1 million for a new version of the old Vail towers. "The response from our alumni has been great," he said.

Joe also asked faculty and staff to increase their in-house contributions, and he imposed a lighthearted, non-mandatory policy called "Go Green, Go Gold," where he asks the campus community to wear LSC colors each Wednesday. "If you haven't figured it out by now," he said, after dismounting his bike, before his speech, "I like to have fun. Life is too short, and the world is complicated enough."

"I believe I am where I'm supposed to be, and I believe I'll be where I'm supposed to be," he said. "It's been a long time since I've been in a place where I felt I haven't belonged."

Days later, while in his office—"a beautiful corner of the world," he said—Joe called himself a motivated, goal oriented Type A personality that leads by surrounding himself with the talent to implement his vision. He is a foodie, a Lion King fan, and textbook introvert who usually recharges alone.

"As soon as I hit the front of a group, or a stage, I'm on," he said. "I am representing and selling LSC. That's what I am doing. But I'm perfectly comfortable being by myself in the house at the end of a long day."

Joe's social circle was small during 16 years of Catholic School in Glendora, N.J. His Italian father, also a Joe, worked for AT&T. His Irish mother, Eileen, was a nurse. He played accordion competitively for 10 years (and still plays a little). When Joe entered the University of Scranton, Pa., in 1982, "There was a group for everyone," he said. "In high school, there are popular groups. In college, there aren't popular groups. There are different groups."

While earning his bachelor's degree in psychology/sociology in Scranton, Joe spent

some time in seminary school and his summers at Camp Ockanickon, where he surprisingly became "the go-to guy." He worked there for eight years, went on to become a board member and president, and will celebrate his 30-year relationship with Camp Ockanickon in the summer of 2013.

"Somehow, I became this listener, this counselor," he said of camp. "It just happened." That inherent and well-honed skill helped Joe build an impressive, 10-page curriculum vitae filled with publications, workshops, consulting, honors, awards, and practically every facet of education, from teaching to administration. He earned his doctorate from Columbia University's Teachers College in 2003.

After eight years at Queens College, Joe left this year with responsibility for 22 departments and more than 200 employees. He also created veterans' services and a wellness center on campus. "Joe stands out as a president who will attempt to engage, in an extremely supportive way, every single student we have," said Jonathan Davis, LSC Class of '97 and dean of students. "I've already witnessed that in the form of students walking into his office to ask a question or simply to chat."

Student recruitment and retention is also part of Joe's mission at LSC. He has charged Davis with co-chairing a team that would use data and strategies to increase the College's retention rates. Davis was an LSC student when Peggy Williams was president, in the 1990s. Williams was already one of Joe's mentors when he learned about the president's vacancy at LSC last December.

Joe was considering other job offers for higher salaries at larger schools, "but I just kept coming back to Lyndon," he said. Enamored after his first trip to campus, and he went with no expectations, he called his partner, Bil, in New Jersey and said, "The good news is I think I interviewed well, and I liked it. The bad news is I think I interviewed well, and I liked it."

He elaborated further in his office more recently: "Initially, I underestimated Lyndon in so many ways. Then, when I got here, it was nothing like I thought it would be. The people are passionate. The College is in great shape. I fell in love." Bil is in New Jersey for now, working at Rutgers University and living in the house he and Joe shared before Joe moved to Lyndonville. Joe converted the lower level of the LSC president's house—"our house," he calls it—to all-purpose meeting space. He lives upstairs.

"I believe I am where I'm supposed to be, and I believe I'll be where I'm supposed to be," he said. "It's been a long time since I've been in a place where I felt I haven't belonged."

TRIBUTE TO THE SOMERSET POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I stand here to pay tribute to the honorable men and women, past and present, of the Somerset Police Department in Pulaski County, KY, for 125 years of faithful service and tireless dedication.

Founded on March 13, 1888, the Somerset Police Department has admirably served the city and surrounding area and to this day represents the best of our State's citizens. One example of their thorough care for and involvement in the community is their annual charity basketball game. Typically, the officers challenge a local high-school team to an exhibition match—

this year they took on the local fire department, with the proceeds from the event going to support a local girl who suffers from Type I diabetes. Their reputation for "coming to the rescue" was displayed in a different way than their daily work, but displayed nonetheless, and their efforts certainly are appreciated by those in need who benefit from the support raised by their charity.

I rise not only to celebrate those who serve, but also those we have lost in service. We are grateful for dedicated officers of the Somerset Police Department who risk their very lives to protect and bring order to their city.

At this time, I would like to applaud the Somerset Police Department on the 125th anniversary of its founding, and I request that an article recognizing this occasion from a Pulaski County, KY, newspaper be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be appear in the RECORD as follows:

[From the Commonwealth Journal, March 16, 2013]

125 YEARS OF SERVICE: SOMERSET POLICE DEPARTMENT FOUNDED MARCH 13, 1888—STAFF REPORT, COMMONWEALTH JOURNAL

SOMERSET.—The Somerset Police Department recently celebrated 125 years of service in the community.

The history of SPD dates all the way back to March 13, 1888, when Mayor A. Wolf appointed John B. Ingram as the first chief of police for the newly formed City of Somerset.

The police department would grow along with the city's population and physical boundaries over the next 125 years.

Still, some have lost their lives in the line of duty.

"As the department gets a year older, it is important to remember those officers who lost their lives serving the citizens of our city," stated Lt. Shannon Smith, with SPD.

Somerset Chief of Police Silas West was shot and killed in 1928 while attempting to arrest a drunk person on the square. Patrolman Walter McKinley Massingale was shot and killed on Halloween night in 1929 while investigating a bootlegger on South Maple Street. And in 1957, Police Chief Harold Catron was shot on his porch on Jasper Street, and he would later die from those wounds in 1964.

"Our 125th anniversary is a milestone to our department," said SPD Acting Police Chief Major Doug Nelson. "Through hard work, rigorous training, and an established level of professionalism, the men and women of the Somerset Police Department will continue to serve our community to make it a safe place to live and work."

61ST NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator PRYOR and myself, I ask unanimous consent that the transcript of the 61th Annual National Prayer Breakfast be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows: